

JOHN



Current Issue

- ◆ Up and Away
- ◆ Honor Flight
- ◆ Fresh Flowers



Welcome to JOHN

This issue marks the coming of fall and the end of the summer. I saw the need for a little different slant this time. The world has been too full of words recently so I wanted to emphasize the visual side of the stories and let the pages speak for themselves.

Living in the Albuquerque area gives one a certain anticipation of the cooler nights and the coming of the Fall season because we all know it will soon be
BALLOON FIESTA TIME!

As the next couple of pages will reveal, my passion is taking photos of balloons of all kinds and collecting balloon pins. Have been doing both since 1995 and most of the photos come from my own backyard. Yes, we do go down to the Balloon Fiesta park at least one day during the fiesta to get our close up fix, but for the most part the balloons come to us!

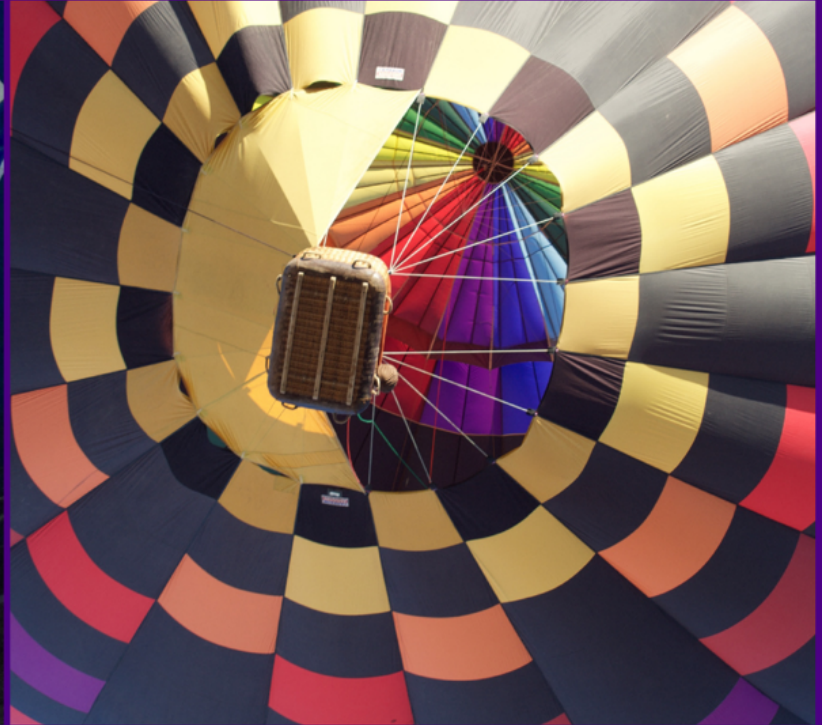
There is not a more noble thing than to engage in any activity that honors our American Veterans. The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans by transporting these heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans - World War II survivors, along with those veterans who may be terminally ill. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 640 WWII veterans die each day. Our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out. I encourage you to visit their website: <https://www.honorflight.org> to discover just how important the Honor Flight Network has become to our Veterans.

Christine and I have been able to be on hand for two different Honor Flights' returning home to Albuquerque. The last one was in June and included in this issue is a letter received by the NM Blue Star Mothers from 91 year old Claude Vincent Mauldin who was on the Honor Flight. His letter is so rich in his experience with the Honor Flight and some memories of his service, enjoy his kind words and then give thanks to all our American Veterans.

JAH



The board of pins to the left is but a small sample of a fairly large NM Balloon Fiesta pin collection. Of special note is the complete collection of the year number pins. The year number pins was started in the 20th year of the fiesta & we are now in year 46. The gold arrow in the picture marks not only this year's pin, but shows that the board has room for year pins up to 50. That is the goal for this collection.



21st / 1st DAY
SUMMER

Dear Blue Stars Mom's
I had forgotten about
Mail Call. Sure Glad to
Receive some Mail from
Home, just Glad some-
ones still care. I have
a lot of Compassion for
their fellow man, I
Sure had a good time
& Enjoyed the Honor that
I light. Enjoyed nite at
Marriot Hotel in Albuquerque
& the days at Hilton, Good
Food, Royalty, & Police
Escort to & from Memorials
& Got to do things I had
never dreamed off, it
was awesome. I Guess one
(High Light Lite) was being
pushed around in Wheel Chair
we wouldn't have Got to
see Every thing a my Daughter
was my Guardian & she had
leash on me & wouldn't turn
me loose.
Best Part was when we
Landed in Albuquerque & they

(2)

Got off Plane, a Gentleman
was leading (front) & playing
Bag Pipes all the way to Bagge
Claim Claim. Janya said
there approx. 500 people
to greet us, I was telling
everyone I could, I loved
them in Christian Love &
giving Commache (War
hoop), I didn't ~~at~~ know
there would be anyone to
greet me or us, was the
Best Part When I saw
members of my family
(who could make it) it
was like coming home
again. What a celebration
when I mustered out of
Army. I had to hitch
home. Took me 2 or 3 days
to get. People would give
you a ride back then.

in Christian Love

Claude Vincent Mauldin

11-15-25 - 91 yrs old. Still able
to take care of my self
God Bless you all



New Mexico
Honor Flight
Veterans
arriving back
in
Albuquerque
on June 21,
2017



Welcome home one more time !

FRESH FLOWERS



I Shall Not Pass This Way Again

Through this toilsome world, alas,
Once and only once I pass
If a good deed I may do,
If a kindness I may show
To a suffering fellow man,
Let me do it while I can,
No delay for it is plain
I shall not pass this way again.

(Stephen Grellet, 1773-1855)